

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01

USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 EB-11 IO-12 /128 R

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4/5/73: X23199

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EUR/ RPM: RJMCGUIRE: EJSTREATOR

D/ MBFR: RLGARTHOFF

PM/ DCA: VBAKER - ACDA/ IR: OGROBEL

DOD/ ISA: RBARTHOLOMEW

JCS/ J-5: ADM. DOYLE

EUR/ RPE: WLDUTTON

NSC: MPOWER ( SUBS)

S/ S: MR. BARNES

----- 125929

R 060014 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063548

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, EEC, FR, NATO

SUBJECT: EC DISCUSSIONS OF MBFR

REF: USNATO 1626

HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

1. DISCUSSION OF MBFR BY EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS  
REPRESENTS NEW DEVELOPMENT IN GROWING EC POLITICAL CON-  
SULTATIONS, AND POTENTIALLY NEW FACTOR IN DEVELOPMENT OF  
WESTERN POSITIONS ON MBFR. WE REGARD IT AS LOGICAL  
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EXTENSION OF POLITICAL CONSULTATION PROGRESS. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BECOME CONCERNED IF EC STATES WERE TO ARRIVE AT COMMON POSITIONS WHICH WERE NOT OPEN TO MODIFICATION IN NATO CONSULTATIONS, OR IF EC MEMBERS WERE TO PRESENT AS FAITS ACCOMPLIS IN NATO EC POSITIONS ON MBFR WHICH RUN COUNTER TO US VIEWS. ON OTHER HAND, EC CONSULTATIONS MAY PERMIT FRANCE- GRADUALLY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MBFR AND MAY ALSO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF POSITIONS FAVORABLE TO US INTERESTS ( E. G., ITALIAN SUGGESTION WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING INDIGENOUS FORCES FROM INITIAL REDUCTIONS).

2. IT IS APPARENT FRO SECRET

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ACCETAPANCE OF THE VICE PRESENTIAL OFFICE AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD NOT SEEN THE PRESIDENT SINCE JANUARY 28. SIRIK MATAK ADDED THAT HE, IN TAM AND CHENG HENG WERE ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR A DIALOGUE WITH THE PRESIDENT BUT " NO ONE HAS CALLED US."

10. SIRIK MATAK DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITIES OF A COUP D' ETAT, POINTING OUT THAT THE ARMED FORCES, WHO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN MOUNT SUCH AN OPERATION, DO NOT HAVE ANYONE CAPABLE OF GOVERNING. SIRIK MATAK ALSO SAID LON NOL' S GOING ABROAD FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT WOULD NOT HELP SOLVE THE LEADERSHIP QUESTION AS LONG AS THERE IS NO VICD PRESIDENT. HE ASSERTED VIGOROUSLY THAT THE PRESIDENMOF THE SENATE COULD NOT CONSTITUTIONALLY ACT IN THE PRESIDENT' S STEAD IN CIRCUMSTANCES OTHER TBAN DEATH.

11. ASKED TO ENVISAGE A SOLUTION TO THE PRESENT SITUATION, SIRIK MATAK SAID IT IS NECESSARY TO " BRING ANAW" AND REKINDLE THE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE WHICH THE REGIME ONCE ENJOYED. HE FELT THAT THE KHMER INSURGENCY, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS NUMEROUS UNITS PURPOSELY ISOLATED FROM EACH OTHER BY THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS, COULD BE HANDLED IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. SIRIK MATAK WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO SAY WHAT SORT OF GOVERNMENT COULD REGAIN PUBLIC CONFIDENCE ASIDE FROM REFERRING BRIEFLY TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A GOVERNING TEAM. AS DID HUY KANTHOUL LATER, SIRIK MATAK INDICATED THAT THE U. S. SHOULD TAKE A ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT A CHANGE.

12. HUY KANTHOUL PREDICTABLY ADVOCATED A MORE DRASTIC IF EQUALLY VAGUE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT ( WHICH SIRIK MATAK' S COLLEAGURE SENG BUN KORN CALLED " EXTREMIST".) HE SAID A NEW GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF PEOPLE ABLE TO SEPAK TO THE ENTIRE COUNTRY INCLUDING THE MAQUIS SHOULD BE INSTALLED. ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE LESS THAN A FIFTY PERCENT CHANCE OF SURVIVAL, THESE PERCENTAGES ARE BETTER THAN THOSE OFNMHE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WHICH IS 100 PERCENT DOOMED TO FAILURE, HUY KANTHOB CLAIMED. ASKED TO DDEFINE THE PROGRAM OF THIS GOVERNMENT, HUY KANTHOUL, ASIDE

FROM ADVOCATING GREATER INDEPENDENCE FROM THE SUPERPOWERS,  
OUTLINED THE GOALS PUBLICLY ESPOUSED BY THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT,  
LEADING SENG BUN KORN TO COMMENT THAT KHMER POLITICS CENTERS  
MORE ON PERSONALITIES THAN PROGRAMS. PRESSED TO NAME THE  
LEADERS OF THIS NEW GOVERNMENT, HUY KANTHOUL LIMITED HIMSELF  
TO SAYING THAT THE COUNTRY DID NOT LACK ADEQUATE MEN.

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13. AT THE CONCLUSION OF BOTH CONVERSATIONS SENATOR BROOKE  
EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE KHMER MIGHT SOON FIND A  
POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THEIR PROBLEMS.  
SWANK

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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HELSINKI  
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